

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL MEMORANDUM**

**SB 878 – HB 1246**

June 4, 2009

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS (004748, 009068):** Amendment 004748 deletes the language of the original bill. Establishes minimum training requirements for paid and volunteer firefighters. Includes a requirement that firefighters excused by their chief officer from operating in environments immediately dangerous to life and health are required to take the basic training course but are exempt from the live firefighting training course. Amendment 009068 authorizes local governments to determine whether the government entity or the firefighter will be responsible for paying costs associated with obtaining the required training.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:**

(CORRECTED)

Increase State Revenue – \$86,500

Increase State Expenditures – \$81,600

Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$154,000\*

*\*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

**FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:**

**Increase State Revenue – \$86,500**

**Increase State Expenditures – \$81,600**

**Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$154,000/Permissive**

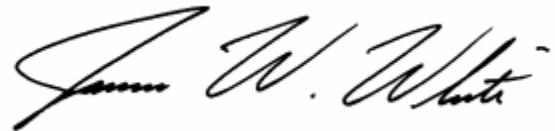
Assumptions applied to amendments:

**SB 878 – HB 1246**

- The Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Academy with the Department of Commerce and Insurance will provide instructor training through the “Train-the-Trainer” program utilizing existing resources.
- The Academy will also train 240 firefighters per year in the basic and live burn classes. Tuition for these two classes is \$225 per firefighter and will be paid by local governments or by firefighters, increasing permissive local expenditures \$54,000 and increasing state revenue \$54,000. State expenditures will increase \$81,600 for costs associated with conducting training. The Academy expects to continue to train 240 firefighters every year.
- According to the Department, the Academy currently trains 6,500 firefighters per year. Tuition costs will be increased \$5, for an increase in state revenue of \$32,500.
- There are approximately 27,000 firefighters statewide. Approximately 10,662 firefighters are already meeting the requirements of the bill. Of the 16,338 remaining firefighters, approximately 2,287 (14 percent) will require training under this legislation. The other 14,051 will be exempt from training because they entered fire service before June 30, 2004.
- The approximate number of firefighters who will be trained by local governments whose trainers are certified by the Department is 2,047. The cost of training will vary across local governments, depending on what training programs are already in place and whether training is paid for by local governments or by firefighters. Permissive local government expenditures are estimated to increase in an amount exceeding \$100,000.

### **CERTIFICATION:**

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

/kmc